

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

14. **(New)** A method for treatment of the exhaust of an internal combustion engine in which a fluid is used as an auxiliary agent for the treatment, the method comprising the steps of at least occasionally stimulating a partial chemical conversion of the auxiliary agent in order to produce a substance that reduces the freezing point of the fluid when the temperature of the fluid falls below a critical value.

15. **(New)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the conversion of the auxiliary agent is stimulated before the auxiliary agent is introduced into the exhaust.

16. **(New)** The method according to claim 14, wherein the fluid is drawn from a tank and supplied to the exhaust via lines, and wherein the stimulation occurs in a partial region of the tank or in a fluid volume contained in the lines so that a sufficient quantity of the substance can be distributed in the fluid volume in order to achieve a uniform freezing point reduction.

17. **(New)** The method according to claim 15, wherein the fluid is drawn from a tank and supplied to the exhaust via lines, and wherein the stimulation occurs in a partial region of the

tank or in a fluid volume contained in the lines so that a sufficient quantity of the substance can be distributed in the fluid volume in order to achieve a uniform freezing point reduction.

18. **(New)** The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.

19. **(New)** The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.

20. **(New)** The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of supplying heat to produce the stimulation.

21. **(New)** The method according to claim 19, wherein heat is supplied for a time to heat the partial region of the fluid to a temperature above 60° Celsius.

22. **(New)** The method according to claim 18, wherein due to a spatial distribution, the supply of heat causes only a slight temperature increase in the fluid volume over time.

23. **(New)** The method according to claim 21, wherein due to a spatial distribution, the supply of heat causes only a slight temperature increase in the fluid volume over time.

24. **(New)** The method according to claim 22, wherein the slight temperature increase lies in the range between 5 Kelvin and 50 Kelvin.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the slight temperature increase lies in the range between 5 Kelvin and 50 Kelvin.

26. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the freezing point is reduced by 10 to 30 Kelvin.

27. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

28. (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

29. (New) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of measuring the concentration of the substance in the fluid and/or the temperature of the fluid, and establishing the intensity and/or duration of the stimulation as a function of the concentration of the substance and/or the temperature.

30. (New) The method according to claim 27, wherein the concentration and/or the temperature is measured in the partial region.

31. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the substance is a gas that is soluble in the fluid.

32. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein a urea/water solution is used as the fluid and ammonia is the substance.

33. (New) A device for treatment of the exhaust of an internal combustion engine in which a fluid (1) is used as an auxiliary agent for the treatment, the device comprising means (2, 3, 4, 5, 3a, 4a, 5a, 14) for at least occasionally stimulating a partial chemical conversion of the auxiliary agent into a substance that reduces the freezing point of the fluid, the means being disposed and/or embodied so as to permit the stimulation to occur when the temperature of the fluid falls below a critical value.